

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
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S E C R E T STATE 193737

NODIS

FOL RPT PARIS 24112 ACTION SECSTATE 1 AUG 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T PARIS 24112

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DEPT PLEASE PASS ISLAMABAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PERP, MNUC, TECH, MILI, PK, FR, US
SUBJECT: FRENCH COMPLAINT CONCERNING US ACTION ON
PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT

REF: PARIS 23772

1. MFA NON-PROLIFERATION ADVISER ANDRE JACOMET CALLED
IN POLITICAL COUNSELOR AUGUST 1 TO TRANSMIT, ON BEHALF
OF FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD, COMPLAINT THAT
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AMBASSADOR HUMMEL HAD INFORMED THE CHINESE AMBASSADOR
IN ISLAMABAD OF THE FRENCH DECISION NOT TO PROCEED
WITH THE REPROCESSING PLANT.

2. JACOMET SAID THAT AMBASSADOR HUMMEL'S INITIATIVE
TO INFORM THE CHINESE WAS A MISTAKE FOR TWO REASONS:
(A) THE FRENCH HAVE ASSURED GENERAL ZIA THAT THEY

WOULD KEEP THEIR DECISION CONFIDENTIAL PENDING GISCARD'S CONSIDERATION OF A RESPONSE TO ZIA'S LETTER (JACOMET DID CONCEDE THAT THE FRENCH HAD INFORMED THE BRITISH, THE INDIANS, THE IRANIANS, AND THE GERMANS.) (B) THE FRENCH HAVE BEEN MADE TO LOOK IN CHINESE EYES AS IF THEIR DECISION ON THE PLANT HAD BEEN TAKEN EITHER TO PLEASE THE U.S. OR UNDER U.S. PRESSURE. JACOMET EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRENCH ACTED AS THEY DID PURELY BECAUSE OF FRENCH NON-PROLIFERATION POLICY.

3. JACOMET IMPLIED THAT FRENCH HESITANCY IN INFORMING THE CHINESE WAS BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT THE CHINESE SHARES THE PAKISTANI VIEW OF THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE AREA AND WANTED THE REPROCESSING PLANT TO BE BUILT. JACOMET SAID THAT A CHINESE EMBASSY OFFICER HAD SAID AS MUCH TO A FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICER IN ISLAMABAD FOLLOWING JACOMET'S DEPARTURE.

4. IN MAKING HIS DEMARCHE JACOMET MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS INCIDENT WOULD NOT TROUBLE THE OVERALL U.S.-FRENCH RELATIONSHIP ON THE REPROCESSING ISSUE. POL COUNS NOTED THAT HE OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT COMMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF JACOMET'S DEMARCHE SINCE HE HAD NO INFORMATION ON THE PARTICULAR ISSUE.

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5. IN CONCLUSION JACOMET EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT REMAINS FIRM IN ITS DECISION NOT TO CONTINUE WITH THE REPROCESSING CONTRACT. JACOMET EXPECTS THAT GISCARD WILL ANSWER ZIA'S LETTER QUITE SOON, POSSIBLY THIS WEEK. HE ADDED THAT HE DID NOT THINK GISCARD WOULD ADOPT HIS SUGGESTION TO SEND AN ENVOY TO ISLAMABAD (REFTEL).
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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